

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING for Plumtree held on Thursday May 23, 2013, at the Burnside Memorial Hall, Plumtree at 7pm

There were 18 members of the public present and they were welcomed to the meeting by the parish council chairman Coun. David Martin.

1. **APOLOGIES** were received from Coun. Adrian Kerrison and Coun. Reg Adair and Coun. Fiona Mason.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held on Thursday May 24, 2012, were agreed and duly signed as correct by the chairman Coun. David Martin

3. **Presentation by Mr Paul Noone**, Upper Broughton Neighbourhood Watch, Member of NottsWatch Executive Committee and Nottinghamshire Police Volunteer, and PC Howard Shinn, on the question of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Plumtree.

The chairman introduced the two speakers and welcomed them to the meeting.

Mr Noone highlighted the working of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and said he had been a member of the organisation for six years. He said he was confident having such a scheme proved beneficial to any village and added he would be happy to assist in the setting up of one in Plumtree if that was the action from the meeting. He suggested a leaflet drop should be organised to test the overall feeling for such a group to be formed.

Pc Shinn said he had started three new schemes in his Beat area and he too would be happy to help at Plumtree. He said one of the new ones he had started was in Plumtree Park. He said while he would be happy to assist, a scheme would belong to the village if it were established and run how residents wished it to.

4. **Chairman's report**

The chairman David Martin presented his annual report, a copy of which is appended to the minutes.

- 5 **Finance report**

The Clerk said the council started the 2011/2012 financial year with a figure in hand of £5,621 compared to £3,866 in the previous financial year.

During the year the main items of expenditure were £105 for audit fees, subscriptions £149, £331 for grass cutting, maintenance and street furniture, hire of the Burnside Memorial Hall for council meetings cost £127. The parish council website cost £65. Expenditure on publishing a parish council newsletter was £51. Total expenditure during the year was £3,256. Income during the year totalled £4,059 comprising of £3,750 from precept, £130 was recovered from VAT spent on goods and services in the previous financial year and £3 from bank interest. The council also received £250 from website advertisements.

The council ended the year with a balance in hand of £6,425, which allows it to meet Audit Commission's advice to hold reserves to meet 18-months worth of expenditure. The precept for the new financial year was £3,795.

- 6 **Question time**

A number of points were raised, including speeding traffic, the delay in provision of a second interactive speed sign, the need for 30mph speed reminders to be painted on the road, improvements to the bus stops areas, a need for repair work to a door at the electricity sub station, and the condition of road surfaces.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Plumtree Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2012/13

This has been a year of steady progress, although it started off with some unwanted minor vandalism. A few teenagers, passing through the village late at night caused a few problems, but thankfully, at the instigation of their parents, everything was put right to the satisfaction of those affected.

With concerns with traffic passing through the village often dominating discussions at council meetings John Brook carried out a thorough analysis of the problem, including issuing and reviewing the results of a traffic questionnaire sent to all residents. By calling on the help of our County Councillor, Reg Adair, an official review of traffic volume and speed on Main Road was carried out. Although we were very disappointed with the County Council view that the volume of traffic (almost 8000 vehicles a day) was not unusual, an interactive speed sign has been installed on Station Road and, we understand, another due on Main Road. This along with the restriction of vehicles over 7.5 tonnes, using our village as a short cut, has significantly reduced reported problems. My thanks to John Brook for all the work he did.

Highways issues always appear to be the most difficult to resolve. Discussions with a county council representative at our September meeting, followed by a site review in October resulted in many positive verbal responses. However, we are still waiting, despite several requests, to hear formally what action will be taken on the issues raised. I am please to see that the clearing back of overgrown grass on footpaths and the filling in of pot holes has started to happen without further prompting.

The telephone box library continues to be successful with books now being exchanged with Normanton to 'freshen up the stock'. The Griffin continues to change hands and views on its popularity are varied, but I'm grateful that we still have a pub in the village. We also have the newly extended and totally refurbished village cricket club which offers an excellent alternative venue at weekends for socialising and watching first class village cricket.

My thanks go to Madge Spicer and Sue Collishaw for maintaining the planters, and I'm very pleased that the Wolds Childcare Nursery has agreed to take over the maintenance of the Pinfold as a wild flower sanctuary.

We haven't had too many planning applications to deal with in the past year, but we need to be aware of possible large scale developments in areas near by which could have a negative impact on Plumtree. Sadly the significant concerns that we raised about the Sharp Hill/Wheatcroft Island revised plans were not enough to stop the down grading of the original traffic flow proposals. Rushcliffe Borough Council is under pressure to build a significant number of houses over the next 10 to 15 years and Keyworth Parish Council is looking at options in their area. Inevitably, any increase in the Keyworth housing stock will have an impact on Plumtree. Recently Miller Homes proposed building 200 houses on a site bordering Station Road and Platt Lane. We have already made our concerns known to Keyworth Parish Council and, in doing so, raised several issues that they were unaware of.

Councillors have continued to represent Plumtree at various seminars and forums on a variety of subjects and also the quarterly Police Priority Group Setting meeting.

For those who have access to the internet you will find that there is an excellent Parish Council website. My grateful thanks go to Fiona Carruthers for all her hard work.

I am disappointed with the attendance at parish council meetings. The parish council is here to represent the residents, but this becomes difficult when so few attend the meetings. For those who cannot attend the meetings you can always make your views known by either contacting one of the councillors or sending an email to the website. However, my sincere thanks go to the faithful few who continue to attend and keep us on our toes.

Finally, my thanks go all the councillors for their invaluable support throughout the year and the help and guidance from our Parish Clerk, Mike Elliott.

David Martin

23/05/13